

## Horse Department.

OUR work on MORGAN HORSES is progressing rapidly, but there are yet many horses that should be entered here whose pedigrees we have not received. We want full pedigree and history of every meritorious stallion descended in direct male line from Justin Morgan, with name and residence of the breeder of such horse and of the several dams. Blanks for this information will be furnished free by addressing THE REGISTER, Middlebury, Vt. No fee is required for this registration. It will be perceived that we are publishing a large amount of original information on trotting pedigrees, and historical matter on the early horses of this country, which cannot be obtained elsewhere; and we recommend to our patrons to preserve their files of THE REGISTER, as they will form, with the full indexes thereto, a most valuable and available cyclopedia upon these matters. An index will also be supplied for the Literary Department.

### HISTORY OF VERMONT BLACK HAWK.

[From the American Cultivator.]

Wishing to learn something definite concerning the man who bought Vermont Black Hawk from the estate after the death of Ezekiel Twombly, and thinking that an interview with Wingate Twombly might open some trail that would follow up give more light upon the early history of Black Hawk than had appeared in any account of that distinguished animal yet published, the writer visited the extensive farm of Mr. Charles H. Hayes (more familiarly known as Hiram), which is located in Portsmouth, N. H., about 2-1/2 miles from the station. Fortunately the proprietor was at home, and from him it was learned that Mr. Wingate Twombly was living in a house on a part of Mr. Hayes' estate, and, although well advanced in years, his memory of facts which occurred in his younger days was tolerably clear, and that he would undoubtedly be glad to give any information in his power concerning the early history of Black Hawk.

Mr. Hayes also suggested that Mr. Shadrack Seavey, an intelligent, wide-awake, well-to-do farmer, whose statements could be implicitly relied upon, was living in the adjoining town of Greenland, and might be able to give some information concerning the horse in question, as he was a grandson of Ezekiel Twombly and was living at his grandfather's at the latter's death. Following the direction of Mr. Hayes, Wingate Twombly was soon found, and although suffering somewhat from rheumatism, was up about the house, and quite as nimble as most men who have passed the line of fourscore years. Making known at once the object of the visit, the following information was elicited from the old gentleman, who stated that he was a son of Ezekiel Twombly, and was born in Durham, N. H., Oct. 1, 1806. He had four brothers, named James, Isaac, Stephen and Shadrack, all of whom have been dead for years. He (Wingate) lived at home with his parents several years after he was of age. In 1832 his father, Ezekiel Twombly, traded an eight-year-old mare with Benjamin Kelly, who then kept a hotel in Durham, for a large black mare, agreeing to give Kelly a load of hay in case the black mare, which Mr. Kelly stated had been bred to Sherman Morgan, should prove in foal.

This mare he describes as being a large, handsome animal, with wide nostrils, good-sized head and ears (the latter well set and "always carried upright, as straight as a stick"), neck of good length and well cut up under the jaw, strong back, good loin, hips of good width, rather straight and very smoothly turned, handsome croup and good legs, which were clean, flat and free from hair. She was well shaped, but not what would be called snug built. Her color was black, with a white strip in her face about the width of three fingers, extending from the middle of the forehead to the nose. This strip was the only white about her excepting a few hairs growing in places where she had been galled by the harness. She had no white feet, and there were no white hairs mixed through her coat. After shedding her coat in the spring she was as black as jet—one of the blackest he ever saw.

She stood about sixteen hands in height, weighed 1100 pounds, was as square a trotter as ever wore harness, never paced a step while he knew her, and was very fast for those times. Before trading with Mr. Twombly, Kelly drove the mare a measured mile on the turnpike in three minutes to a gig when carrying Black Hawk. She was a mare of good courage, great endurance and excellent wind. He once drove her ten miles coming home from muster over very muddy roads with five in a heavy wagon. The distance was traveled in a very short time, but the mare's courage was as good the last rod as when she started. In traveling she carried her head fairly well up, or a little higher than her body. Was by no means a low-headed animal.

Although a free driver, needing no whip, she was a very kind-dispositioned animal, and safe for any one to use on the road. Mrs. Twombly frequently drove her alone after that lady was eighty years old. Mr. Kelly, from whom his father had the mare, claimed he got her of a pedler, who represented that he brought her from Nova Scotia, and stated that her dam was imported. She was about eight years old when Mr. Twombly got her. He always said she was the best animal he ever drove. So good was her wind that after the most severe exertion she never puffed, but would fill her lungs once, give a long breath and then breathe naturally.

In the Spring of 1833 this mare dropped a very small, inferior-looking colt,

which when Ezekiel Twombly first saw he exclaimed in disgust, "that is not a colt, it is a mule." As it grew older it improved in appearance until it was a fair looking animal. When two years old he gave them some trouble by breaking out of the enclosure where he was kept and visiting a neighbor's pasture. The following year the first of his produce was dropped, which at four years of age was sold for \$175. A similar event occurred in his four-year-old form, the result being a fine filly which at six years of age was sold for \$600.

Black Hawk, when a colt, was a square-gaited, easy-moving, natural trotter, and very fast for that day. He was broken to harness at the usual age and driven upon the road, where he soon distinguished himself by trotting past everything that he encountered, including the fastest trotters of the best horsemen in the vicinity of Greenland. He was at first quite light in the quarters, and at five years of age was quite peaked behind, but after being owned by Thurston awhile he filled out and improved considerably in this respect. He was always a very spirited driver, yet remarkably kind and tractable. In many respects he resembled his dam closely, especially in the shape of his head.

In regard to his breeding, Mr. Kelly always said that he was by Sherman Morgan, as did Mr. Bellows, the owner of that horse, and at no time during the life of Ezekiel Twombly was this ever questioned. It was on account of his being a son of Sherman Morgan that he was kept entire. After Sherman Morgan left Durham, Flint Morgan, a son of Sherman, made several seasons there, and the dam of Black Hawk dropped two foals by him. About the time that Flint Morgan was standing at Durham, John Tuttle, a blacksmith who worked in company with one Rufus Willy, kept a stallion called Harmony, and after Black Hawk gave such unmistakable promise of becoming a fast trotter, Tuttle started a story that Black Hawk was by Paddy, a small Canadian stallion that Mr. Bellows used for a teaser. The story originated from jealousy of the Sherman Morgan stock, and was flatly contradicted by both Kelly, who bred Black Hawk, and Bellows, who owned Sherman Morgan at the time. Bellows and Kelly both finally took their oath before Judge Smith of Durham that the dam of Black Hawk was bred to Sherman Morgan, as the books of Bellows showed, and was never bred to Paddy.

In regard to a lawsuit said to have been brought by Bellows to recover service fees from Ezekiel Twombly, on Black Hawk's account, no such event ever occurred. While Flint Morgan stood at Durham, the dam of Black Hawk was bred to him by Wingate Twombly, without his father's knowledge, and the old gentleman refused payment. It was for Flint Morgan's services and not Sherman Morgan's that the suit was brought. Benjamin Kelly settled for the services resulting in Black Hawk, and Mr. Ezekiel Twombly gave Kelly the hay, as agreed upon at the time of trading.

Black Hawk was called The Morgan while owned in the Twombly family. When questioned in regard to the time of year that Black Hawk was dropped, Mr. Twombly had evidently been impressed with the idea, from some source, that it was May 23, and so stated. He was also very confident that his father died in 1838, and so stated to Mr. Hayes, but the records show it to have been 1837. The foals by Flint Morgan, from Black Hawk's dam, never became noted. One of them, a mare, was heavier at four years of age than her dam. Mr. Twombly did not remember what became of either of these. Flint Morgan he describes as a taller horse than Sherman Morgan. The dam of Black Hawk was owned in the family nearly ten years. After Ezekiel Twombly's death the colt, afterwards known as Black Hawk, was appraised at \$60 and taken at appraisal by Shadrack Seavey, a son of Wingate Twombly's sister, who lived with his grandparents. Seavey traded the colt with Albert Mathes when it was five years old, for a mare and \$30 in cash.

Leaving Mr. Twombly the writer drove at once to the home of Mr. Shadrack Seavey, about 2-1/2 miles from Greenland Parade on the turnpike to Newburyport. Fortunately Mr. Seavey was at home and his appearance fully verified the statements of Mr. C. H. Hayes. Mr. Seavey stated that he was born in 1816, and went to live with his grandfather, Ezekiel Twombly, father of his mother, at a very early age, making it his home there until after his grandfather's death, which occurred in 1837. Some time in 1832 Ezekiel Twombly, who was then living on a farm in Durham, N. H., traded with Benjamin Kelly, a hotel keeper in Durham, and got a mare, claimed at that time to be eight or nine years old, and in fact by Sherman Morgan. Mr. Kelly stated that he had the mare of a man who claimed to have brought her from Nova Scotia, and said she was of English blood. She was a large, black animal, with white strip in face, and no other white marks, would weigh in his judgment about 1100 pounds, had a good head and ear, long, slim neck, medium mane and tail, round barrel of good length, handsome, smoothly-turned hips, quite a straight rump, legs smooth and free from shaggy hair. Not being accustomed to measuring horses, he could not tell very nearly as to her height, but thought it might be fifteen hands.

She was a very pleasant, free driver, did not pull on the bit in the least, was a square trotter, never showing any inclination to pace, and was very fast. In harness she carried her head pretty well

up, needed but little checking. Although a free driver she had a pleasant disposition, and would not run away if touched with the whip, yet she needed no encouragement from the lash. It was afterwards stated that she had been used one season on a butcher's cart in Concord, N. H., before Kelly got her, but never took pains to learn, as but little attention was paid in those days to tracing the breeding of animals. Early in the spring of 1833, not later than the middle of April at latest, this mare dropped one of the homeliest colts that he ever saw from that day to this. He remembers the event well. The ground was bare but there was no grass. The mare had the liberty of the field and he was keeping lookout to see that she did not get away. Suddenly she left the field and went back of the barn into the pasture. About twenty minutes later Mr. Seavey went to look for her and found her in the pasture with the inferior-looking object above mentioned.

They got them to the barn; but not long afterwards a neighbor named Thompson came to buy some hay to feed his cows upon until grass grew. Mr. Twombly asked him to look at the colt, which he thought of "knocking on the head," as he was ashamed to have such a looking thing following the mare. Mr. Thompson advised him to let the colt live, saying that he might make a hundred-dollar horse, which in those days was thought a remarkable price. The colt improved in looks as he grew older, and in the fall, though considerably under size, a Dr. Downs who saw him prophesied he would some day be worth \$100.

Mr. Twombly finally gave the colt to him (Shadrack Seavey) and he had the whole care of him. He was the first one to bridle him, the first to mount him on the back, and the first to break him to harness. The colt was a pure-gaited trotter from the first, very spirited, yet wonderfully kind. When breaking him the harness he used was so old and weak that nearly every time he started out some part of it gave way, yet the colt never ran away or did any damage. In those days farmers did not think of feeding grain to colts, and Black Hawk never ate a feed of oats so long as Mr. Seavey had charge of him.

In the fall of 1835 Ezekiel Twombly with his family and stock moved from Durham to Greenland, where he died in 1837, after which his property was appraised, and although the colt had been given to Mr. Seavey it was decided to appraise that also, the value being fixed at \$60, and at this figure he was taken by Mr. Seavey, to whom the estate was indebted for labor.

Besides the foals already mentioned from Black Hawk's dam, she produced two others by her son Black Hawk, both of which died. The old mare finally became lame, and in 1841 Mr. Seavey sold her for the family and lost track of her so that he cannot tell when or where she died. Speaking of the breeding of Black Hawk Mr. Seavey scouted the idea that any one should claim him to be by any other horse except Sherman Morgan, as stated by both Kelly and Bellows. The story that the colt was by Paddy was not started until after he let Mr. Mathes have him. had no foundation whatever, and was not believed by any one who knew the circumstances and was acquainted with all the parties.

The colt was a square trotter from the first, and after being fairly broken was never passed on the road while owned by Mr. Seavey. No strong was his inclination to trot that during all the time Mr. Seavey drove him Black Hawk never made a single break, and he never came across a team on the road during the last year that he had him that he did not go by. He was one of the prettiest driving horses that ever lived.

At one time Mr. Seavey made up his mind to have him gelded, and arranged with Mr. J. Whitten to perform the operation and keep him until sound. The day was set and the colt was led down to Whitten, who urged so strongly against it that Mr. Seavey changed his mind. It was in the Spring of 1838 that Mr. Seavey traded the colt with Mr. A. R. Mathes, whose letters were published in last week's issue. The first time Mr. Mathes came to see him he drove a very smart travelling horse. The folks were away from home with the sleigh, and Mr. Seavey was compelled to show him in an old vehicle not suitable for the purpose.

After driving past Mr. Mathes a few times the latter wanted to drive him, to which Mr. S. consented, and they started for Greenland Parade with the colt in the lead. Arriving at the Parade, Mr. M. was inclined to chaff the young man, telling him in a manner that started Mr. Seavey's grit that the colt was no trotter. Finally Mr. Seavey suggested to Mathes that he would accompany him part way home, that Mathes might start ahead, and if he could not pass him he would give Mathes the colt. They started and after driving a short distance met a loaded team. Mathes reined to the right, but Seavey went to the left, drew up on the reins, shot by Mathes before he came into the road and drove away from him, but waited for him to come up, and at Mathes' urgent request let him take the colt home that night, Mr. Seavey taking the mare, which he returned the next day and got his colt.

A few days afterwards Mr. Mathes brought another animal for which Mr. Seavey exchanged Black Hawk, receiving a mare and \$50 in cash. Mr. Seavey saw Black Hawk once when owned by Mr. Mathes, and found him suffering from a slight lameness in one hind pastern,

caused by driving him at speed over an uneven culvert.

In reply to the question as to whether suit was not at one time brought against Ezekiel Twombly to recover amount of service fee for Sherman Morgan on account of Black Hawk, Mr. Seavey replied that Mr. Kelley bred the mare to Sherman Morgan and settled with Mr. Bellows, owner of that stallion, for the services, and that Mr. Twombly let Kelly have some hay, as was agreed upon when they exchanged in case the mare proved in foal. There was a lawsuit, but it was for services of Flint Morgan, to whom Black Hawk's dam was bred by Wingate Twombly.

The above statements of Messrs. Seavey and Twombly were obtained in reply to questions the answers of which were carefully noted upon the spot. Noticing a discrepancy between the two statements concerning the date of foaling, a letter was addressed to Mr. Seavey calling his attention to the date given by Mr. Twombly, and asking if that was as he remembered the matter, to which came the following reply:

GREENLAND, NOV. 22, 1885.

S. W. PARLIN:

Dear Sir:—Mr. Twombly is mistaken in regard to the time Black Hawk was foaled. It must have been before the middle of April, for I well remember there was no feed in the fields or pastures. He was foaled in Durham, in 1833, and we moved to this place in the fall of 1835. The following spring the colt was three years old. The mare of the mare was about medium, as was also her tail for length. As to her height, I told you all I knew or remembered about it. You are welcome to all the information I have been able to give you, and if I do not know about Black Hawk's ancestors no one does.

Respectfully,

SHADRACK SEAVEY.

Thinking if the dam of Black Hawk was of pacing stock as has been lately suggested, Mr. A. R. Mathes, who is an experienced horseman, must remember something to that effect, a letter was addressed to him one day last week, to which he replies as follows:

STANDFORD, CT., NOV. 26, 1885.

Editor of the American Cultivator:—Your favor of 19th inst. is before me, and I hasten to reply. Am just recovering from a severe sickness, but am always pleased to answer communications in reference to Black Hawk. I love to think about the splendid horse he was. I have owned and seen a great many good ones, but I do not remember one his equal. As to his dam, she was a mare that even in these times would be looked upon among horsemen as a superior animal, having a fine bin, clean, flat legs, long neck, wide between eyes, ears rather long but well set, and very intelligent, bright-looking creature. As I remember her, she had no resemblance of pacing form, in any quarter, having a straight rather than drooping rump. She was, I should judge, about sixteen hands, nicely-shaped withers and all black, as you say Seavey describes her. All in all, she was a good one, and I should like to own one now as she was when I knew her. I always understood that she came from Nova Scotia to Durham. In answer to your postscript, I will say that she was a fine-coated animal, with legs quite free from extra hair, showing superior breeding from some source. I forgot to mention the strip in face, otherwise remember no white about her. Seavey certainly ought to know about that. It is a pleasure to answer your letters, as it brings me back to pleasant recollections of old times.

Very truly yours,

A. R. MATHES.

The fact is too well known to need repeating that Benjamin Thurston, one of the parties to whom A. R. Mathes sold Black Hawk, disposed of him in 1844 to Mr. Noble Hill of this city, and his father, David Hill, of Bridport, Vt., for \$800. He was kept at the farm of David Hill until the horse's death, which occurred at Bridport, Vt., Dec. 1, 1856. It will be observed that he possessed a trotting instinct scarcely excelled by the strongest trotting-bred animals of the present time. Considering the opposition caused by prejudice which he was compelled to endure, the extent to which he improved the light-harness stock of this country is remarkable. Speaking of his excellent qualities, Benjamin Thurston once said that he had owned hundreds of horses in his day, among which were the best that the country afforded, but if the good qualities in all that he had ever owned could be concentrated and combined in a single animal, even that could not excel Vermont Black Hawk. The straight-forward statements of the above gentlemen, Messrs. Seavey, Twombly and Mathes, whose personal knowledge of Black Hawk's ancestry and breeding is a thousand times greater than that of all the writers combined who have attempted to question his origin, will remove all doubt in the minds of every unprejudiced, intelligent person concerning the parentage of that celebrated animal. The original charge of John Bellows for the services of Sherman Morgan, as obtained by Allen Thomson of Woodstock, Vt., and lately published by the Middlebury Register is as follows:

1832—May 14, Benjamin Kelly of Durham, Dr. To black mare as warrant ..... \$14 00  
green money ..... 1 00  
Underneath this charge at another time, Mr. Bellows inserted the following: "This mare produced Black Hawk from this service." Mr. Seavey, whose words no man who knows him questions, states that Black Hawk was foaled as early as the middle of April, 1833. Compare this with Mr. Bellows' charge and the whole matter appears in a nutshell, completely demolishing the Paddy story, which would never have been believed had not Black Hawk, like Mambrino, inherited his color from his dam, and like the latter stamped it upon his progeny with remarkable uniformity.

Messenger, a gray horse by a sire of the same color, bred to a bay daughter of imported Star Croust, produced the bay stallion Mambrino, sire of Abdallah, that got the founder of the Hambletonian family; of Mambrino Paymaster, that got Mambrino Chief, founder of the noted

family that bears his name, and of Almack, which got the founder of the Champion family. Every intelligent horseman knows that in all three of the noted trotting families above mentioned the prevailing color is bay, and it occurs with even greater uniformity than black among the descendants of Black Hawk.

As men in the highest standing are living today who knew Black Hawk from the hour he was foaled until he died at Bridport, Vt., it is apparent that the story representing him as coming from Canada when a four-year-old was clearly due to a case of mistaken identity, and never had even a shadow of foundation, although the parties who made the claim were undoubtedly sincere in their belief that the black four-year-old stallion which they saw in the drove that went to Lowell and worked in a wood yard, was the one afterwards known as Black Hawk.

### PEDIGREE HUNTING:

OR,  
THE WRAITH OF THE OLD GRAY MARE

BEING A TRUE HISTORY OF THE DAM OF

ETHAN ALLEN.

After our return from Tl. I drove a second time to Woodstock, Mr. Thomson produced the written testimony that he had, among which were the following letters:

HAGUE, June 26, 1876.

MR. THOMSON:

Dear Sir:—Yours was received. The recollections of starting to go a visiting to Connecticut in the town of Suffield, but the snow was gone, so they only went to Rupert, Vermont, to a man by the name of Sheldon's, some distant relative, and he bought a small sorrel mare and let it come behind the sleigh. They drove a pair of horses over there, but cannot recall what color they were. His sister went with him instead of his daughter. The next June he went to Sandoga Springs and traded the mare with Dr. Brown, for an old mare and colt, dark brown; they can't recollect of any gray mare that he traded for or sold in any of his trips over there.

Yours truly,

J. S. BUTTOLPH.

His sister that went with him to Rupert has been dead over thirty years.

(This Buttolph married the only daughter of Rufus Rising, Sr., and is reporting the recollection of Mrs. Rufus Rising, Sr., widow.)

The next is a letter from Ira Potter dated March 12, 1877, in which he says: "I think you must have been misinformed concerning the horse. The horse that Reuben Potter sold to Rufus Rising was a gray gelding. If it is the gray mare that foaled Ethan Allen, I can give information, otherwise I cannot. I am no connection of Ambrose Potter, but am a brother of Reuben Potter."

The correspondence was continued with a Mr. Justin Hughes, who wrote for Mr. Thomson as follows:

September 25, 1878.

JUSTIN HUGHES, Esq.: Your note of the 20th inst. of inquiry came to hand. The grand dam of Ethan Allen was a gray mare called the John Glacier mare. He sold her to Dr. John Hayford, and he sold her to Rufus Rising of Hague, and Rufus raised the mare in question, and the gray horse that I was quizzed so much about a year ago sired her.

Respectfully yours,

IRA POTTER.

LOST NATION, IOWA, NOV. 18, 1878.

J. RICHIE:

Sir:—I received your note of inquiry a short time ago. I have been trying to collect my memories but I could find no such information as you ask.

Yes, Rufus Rising raised and owned the said horse, and the story of the horse I do not know definitely about, and I do not think he sired any other than the dam of Ethan Allen, and he was gelded when about four years old I think, and I think he died.

With regards,

IRA POTTER.

Next is an extract from a letter of Curtis Balcum, dated Hague, Nov. 23, 1876:

I don't know whether he had the mare of Potter or not. William Bevins says he did, and refers to W. H. Balcum, Mount Carroll, Ill.

Next, an extract from a letter from William H. Balcum, dated Argo, Carroll Co., Ill., Dec. 9, 1876:

About Ambrose Potter, I recollect him very well, and his son, Asa Potter, and Stewart Wyness, his son-in-law; but about the little gray mare—I am not very sure about her, but I think that Reuben paid off his crew tax with her. The Potters lived some eight or nine miles from me, so I did not keep the run of their business.

P. S. Ira Potter's wife was a Balcum and a cousin of mine. She has been dead some years.

Then the following letter:

Argo, Carroll Co., Ill., Dec. 24, 1876.

ALLEN W. THOMSON:

Respected Sir:—Yours of the 15th is at hand and duly noted. You say you understand Reuben Potter let R. Rising have her—the gray mare. I am not able to say anything about that—and then he let George Johnson have her—I remember George Johnson's having a gray mare. I do not know anything about Rising's having her of R. Potter. I remember about Johnson's having her of Rising. I do not know anything of her pedigree. I thought a gray mare of Caleb Balcum, senior, that Rufus Rising used to own. She was foaled about the year 1825, I should judge. She was half-hipped and I kept her to raise colts. I kept her until she raised four colts and then let her go to a man by the name of Ira Wallace, and he sold her to a man in the next town south—the town of Bolton. I do not know whether it was the same mare you inquire about or not. I had some talk with Mr. Bevins of Hague. He says that the gray mare that Rufus Rising used to own, that foaled the celebrated horse Ethan Allen, was sold to J. W. Holcomb of Tl. Whether it was the gray mare that I owned I cannot say. I cannot say anything about Asa Curtis and his stock. He lived in the west part of the town, and I lived three miles from him in the east part. I think that the mare that I got was bought from Rufus Rising by George Johnson and sold to Caleb Balcum, Sr., and he sold it to me. I am not able to tell who owned her after that, but as, except the man I sold her to, probably Franklin Potter is Reuben Potter's son—I have been informed since I wrote you that Reuben Potter is dead. Curtis Balcum is a cousin of mine and lived in that part of the town near to Rufus Rising and George Johnson and Asa Curtis. I suppose you are trying to get at the pedigree of the celebrated horse, Ethan Allen. I cannot give you any light on the subject. The fact is, I am not much of a horse man. My business for over twenty years past has been selling goods and tend-

ing post-office, and the business you inquire about is a long way back, 30 years and upwards, and the matter was very uninteresting to me at the time.

I am yours, etc.,

WILLIAM H. BALCUM.

Next is a letter to Mr. Thomson from William Bevins, written, as I understood by his wife, and was as follows:

"Mr. THOMSON: Mr. Williams Bevins says that this mare was foaled in ——. The mother of her was brought from Boston to Hague. She was sired by a two-year-old gray colt, a catch one; her mother was a English mare. Mr. Rising bought her when she was four years old, kept her a number of years and sold her to George Johnson, and kept her a number of years and sold her to Warner Cook and he sold her to Whit Holcomb of Tl. He raised, I think, five colts from her; the first one was Ethan Allen, and Ethan Allen was said to be stolen from a Morgan at Holcomb's stable. He raised three very fast horses from her. He knows that was the dam, for he fetched the mother of her into town and she was very fast herself.

This from William Bevins, Hague, Warren Co., New York." (Post-marked, June 22.)

Then this letter from C. Balcum:

HAGUE, NOV. 15, 1876.

Sir:—Your letter is received. I have taken some pains to help you in dates of that sale, but am unable to find any that can help you any. It is all gone from my mind. Reuben Potter is somewhere in Iowa, if alive, but cannot say where.

Yours, etc.,

C. BALCUM.

From Mr. Thomson's notes of interview with Mrs. Rufus Rising it appears that she said that Mr. Rising bought a sorrel mare from one of Mr. Sheldon's neighbors at Rupert, Vt.; and from notes of his interview with William Bevins, that he said that Rufus Rising had the dam of Ethan four years, and got her at four years old.

From the testimony furnished by Mr. Thomson with an extract given below from a letter of Rufus Rising, it is evident that the mare which Rufus Rising, Sr., got at Rupert Vt., and which has furnished Mr. Wallace a suggestion whereon to build his well-known Messenger pedigree, was a sorrel and not a gray mare and was disposed of very soon by Mr. Rising at Stillwater, N. Y.

Under date of Nov. 23, 1885, Mr. Rufus Rising writes us: "I think the horse bought in Rupert, Vt., was exchanged by my father in Stillwater, N. Y., for a mare and colt, about the year 1835 or 6." This evidence, added to that of Mrs. Rising and Joseph Buttolph warrants us in laying the above theory out of the case once and forever.

It, however, it had turned out that the mare so brought from Rupert was the true dam of Ethan, the chance for her to have been sired by Freeman Messenger would be so infinitesimal that probably no man living but John H. Wallace, or one of his strikers, would have been bold enough to have suggested it; and yet it is as good, probably, as a large share of his Messenger pedigrees; as probable for instance as that the dam of Goldsmith Maid was by Abdallah.

### DORSEY'S GREEN MOUNTAIN BLACK HAWK.

L. L. Dorsey, Esq., of The Highlands Farm, Middletown, Ky., answers the numerous inquiries concerning this horse in a letter of great interest, which we ask Mr. Dorsey's permission to publish in a future issue, in full. He says: "I am fortunate enough to be able to send you a stud bill of Green Mountain Black Hawk, gotten out by my grand-father, Elias Dorsey, and on it you will find the pedigree as given by the party from whom he purchased him. It fails to give his age, but from the best I can learn he was foaled in 1850 or '51, as his oldest colts were the exact age of Goldust, foaled in 1855."

The stud bill, dated April 1, 1867, advertises Green Mountain Black Hawk to stand at Boulware's stable in Eminence, Ky., at thirty dollars the season. Pedigree given is: Bred by Edward Wells of Bridport, Vt., sired by Sherman Black Hawk; dam by Gifford Morgan; gr. dam by Sherman Morgan. The description is: "Green Mountain Black Hawk is a deep red chestnut, sixteen hands high and weighs 1150 lbs. in fair order; some white on the right hind foot; is a horse of very blood-like appearance. He combines size, beauty, action, style and speed, rarely to be found in one horse. Among his ancestors are numbered the fastest trotting horses ever known, and he has inherited this going property in a remarkable degree."

"The premium trotting stallion Green Mountain Black Hawk, winner at the Kentucky State fair, near Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 15, 1863, of the Galt House stake of \$100 given to the fastest trotting stallion; also the Sweepstake Ring for the best stallion of any age or breed, \$50 at Shelby county fair, 1862. He won the general use ring, as best stallion \$10, and he also won the first premium as a stallion for speed and other qualities, \$15, also the Armstrong premium given to the fastest trotting horse, mare or gelding at the fair, \$25. He also won at the World's Horse Fair at Chicago, 1862, the \$500 premium given to the fastest trotting stallion and three of his three-year-old colts; this he won by 46 seconds, beating with his two three-year-old colts, Glenco and Eber Adams, and his two-year-old colt, Patsy, the renowned horse Bellfounder, known as Bulcher, and his three colts, all three-year-old, Billy, sorrel filly, and Belle of Lucine, brown filly.

"Winner of the \$250 premium for the best roadster stallion, at the South Western fair grounds, near Louisville, in June, 1860, and the contending horse in the roadster stallion ring, 38 entries, for \$1000 premium, at the great St. Louis fair of 1859, and pronounced on page 5 of the published report of said fair, the favorite and fastest trotter in the ring." [This \$1000 was taken by Stockbridge

ing post-office, and the business you inquire about is a long way back, 30 years and upwards, and the matter was very uninteresting to me at the time.